LINERS CHARTERED FOR NOME TRADE

Pleiades, Lyra and Hyades Will Leave the North China Route in Spring

TO MAKE SURVEY OF CLAYOQUOT

Esquimalt Will Be Depot for Steamers of the Marine Department—The Charmer's Belated Voyage

The Boston Tugboat company's steamers Hyades, Pleiades and Lyra which have been running as intermediary freighters in connection with the liners Tremont and Shawmut have been chartered for the Cape Nome trade by Schubach and Hamilton of Seattle and the business done by the steamers on the North China and Vladivostok route from Seattle via Victoria will be handled by the Andrew Weir fleet. The steamer Gymeric which was in the dry dock at Esquimalt a few days ago will inaugurate the service when she has completed loading at Tacoma, where she now is. The Seattle Times says:

"The Lyra, Hyades and Pleiades have been obtained on long-time charters and will be in the Nome trade for a number of years to come. In the closed season the vessels will enter the coastwise trade as well as be available for off-shore charters. It is expected that all three vessels will leave for the north early in June.

"They are modern steamships and are well adapted for carrying cargoes of every description, especially perishables, since the boats are well ventilated. As soon as the three vessels are withdrawn from the Oriental trade the Chinese crews will be replaced with white men."

During the coming summer a large increase is expected in the number of tramp steamers on the Pacific, carrying wheat and cotton. The Mitsui Bishi company, one of the largest importing firms of Japan, has decided to make additions to a freight service already established to Portland and Puget Sound points. Some steamers are sent to Honolulu with immigrants and come from the islands to Pacific coast ports in ballast to load return cargoes. Others have brought coal, sulphur, cement and other cargoes to Pacific coast ports and have taken wheat consigned to Japanese mills on their homeward runs. The Shibata Maru, Chusa Maru, and the Goto Maru (the last mentioned being formerly the British steamer Sylviana which was captured off Goto island during the war) and the Yeddo Maru have been placed in this service to which it is expected other vessels will be added. The competition of the tramp steamers has already had the effect of causing the regular trans-Pacific lines to lower their freights on wheat and flour.

A BRITISH REPORT

Marine Engineer Says C. P. R. Steamers Are Building at Philadelphia

In the issue of the Marine Engineer, published at London, Eng., for December, the following appears under the head of "Steamship Construction." "Two steamers being built by Cramps, of Philadelphia for the Canadian Pacific railway."

C. P. R. officials in Victoria state that nothing is known by them of any vessels being built for the company in the Philadelphia yards and they believe the report of the Marine Engineer to be in error, the two steamers being built in the east for the P. C. S. S. Co. probably having been confused in the report. During the Klondike rush, a proposal was made that a steamer be constructed at Philadelphia for the C. P. R. so that the company could have an American bottom to compete with other vessels for the trade between United States ports in the North; but nothing came of the proposal.

TO SURVEY CLAYOQUOT

Hydrographic Work Will Be Carried On With Chartered Steamer

Arrangements are being made for a survey of the harbor at Clayoquot in view of the shipping expected at that port following the commencement of the overseas trade of the Mosquito Harbor mill. It is expected that a small steamer will be chartered and Capt. J. T. Walbran, who did considerable hydrographic work when in command of the Quadra will probably have charge of the operations. No decision has been reached yet, but those interested in the west coast port have been urging the government to carry on the work and it is expected that instructions will be received shortly authorizing the surveys.

DOCKAGE AT ESQUIMALT

Marine Department Steamers to Make Depot at Naval Station

Application was made some time ago to the department of marine by the local officers for further wharf space in Victoria harbor, and the minister stated the department did not intend to further extend the holdings at the present site. It is stated that the intention of the department is to take over the Esquimalt naval yard as a base for the departmental steamers similarly to the absorption of the Halifax yard, which was occupied on Jan. 1.

With the addition of the hydographic steamer now being built at Esquimalt and another fishery protection cruiser which is proposed for the Pacific coast service, the dockage facilities of the department will be wholly inadequate. At present berths could not be found for the various vessels now in use if they happened to be in port at the same time.

With the taking over of Esquimalt the marine department would vacate its present premises in the old customs house building and would occupy former naval offices in the Esquimalt naval yard, while the steamers which now berth at the old government wharf in the inner harbor would make Esquimalt their base.

D. G. Quadra is being repaired, a leaking boiler being overhauled, and the steamer is to proceed on patrol duty to the Vancouver Island coast at the end of the week.

CUSTOMS AND SUPERSTITIONS

Dallas News.

It is surprising, when one begins to study the little things of life, to find how they expand and become big things. The science of folk-lore has been at work for a century, more or less, collecting "items of interest" from everywhere, but it is only lately that systematic attempts to correlate these and trace their origin have been made. A few such items may not come amiss. It will serve to call the attention of many of us to the wide-spread diffusion of customs and beliefs that we may have considered local. Let us take a typical case from the three critical times of our life—birth, marriage and death.

The process of stepping over a child is fraught with danger; in Virginia, among the Pennsylvania Dutch, and elsewhere, it will prevent future growth of the child; the same direful consequences will accrue from the same act in Greece, Russia, Sweden, Germany and Bohemia. In Bretagne they have a rhyme of direful import as a leg is passed over the child's head—

"Faine, faine
Dans le ra du chene
To ne grandiras p'us jamais d'autre."

Somewhat similar rhymes are found in Portugal and Italy.

But let us not be without hope; an antidote is at hand. Simply step back over the same child; this undoes the spell in the United States, Brittany, Portugal and Hungary. A variant of this is found in the bad luck attendant on passing the child through a window or under a table; we find this in south Carolina, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, France and among the Jews.

More widespread yet is the prohibition of jumping over grown-ups; this reaches from Brazil to the Arabs. It is hard to trace this to any philosophical source. It very likely represents nothing more than the very sensible idea that a plant or animal upon which the foot is placed will be crushed and not grow.

"Thou shalt bruise his head."

Among marriage customs, lifting and passing over the threshold of the new home have an interesting circulation. This represents the final break with the past and the irrevocable step into the future.

In ancient Rome the bride was lifted over the threshold by men once married; in Khondistan and among the Kalyrles, by the bridegroom; in Germany, by her parents, and is carried over in Switzerland, China and Morocco in this case in a cage. There are some interesting variants. Among the Copts, Arabs and Persians, a sacrifice of blood of sheep or animals is offered as the bride steps over the threshold; in Japan they mingle rice and twist two candle wicks at the same juncture; in Austria, the bride and bridegroom step over with their heads tied together, and in Kobung the bride must on no account touch the threshold on entering the church. Whether these customs come from a becoming modesty and reluctance of the bride on joining her husband, or from an evidence of the ill luck attendant on stumbling on the threshold of the future, or whether it is a remnant of marriage by capture is not certain; the chances are that the last has the greatest share.

Funeral customs are more numerous and complicated than the other two classes put together. Looking at only one, we can grasp what all are in their entirety. Burying objects with the dead that were of use to him in this world and supposedly will be in the next is universal. Ancient Greece, ancient Rome and prehistoric graves everywhere have provided pottery, ornaments, implements and clothes. Wives, slaves and attendants were slain so as to accompany their lord and master among the Caribs, Scythians, Peruvians, New Zealanders; in Guinea, of course, the latter is only a development. Horses, arms, bows, arrows, spears, swords, etc., were laid beside their owner or slain to keep him company among the Tunguz, old Europeans, Tasmanians, Greenlanders, Norse, etc. The custom of giving edibles to the dead to be eaten later by the living may account for some funeral feasts and "funeral baked meats." Now, in this country we have done away with these things, but the custom of robing the dead in his best, and of burying flowers with him, has an inheritance of thousands of years. We are the children of many ancestors, and, living without thought, oftimes we reflect the thought of those forgotten, gone far before, and never even suspected.

Hon. William Manson, Provincial Secretary

Hon. W. Manson, provincial secretary, looks upon the outcome of the present campaign as practically assured. He is confident of carrying the Alberni riding and believes that those representing the interests of the Liberal-Conservative party in the other island constituencies will be returned by large majorities. Much the same condition, he says, is reported from the majority of the mainland districts. In view of the information to hand, and the favorable predictions being made by those who look at the situation from an unbiased standpoint, he thought it was safe to prophesy a substantial working majority for the McBride administration.

The opinion is expressed by Hon. Mr. Manson that the wise and progressive policy enacted by the McBride government, and carried through with such gratifying results to the country at large, will ensure the support of the province at large. He could speak with particular emphasis in reference to the Island. The conditions in his own constituency, he thought, could be accepted as a fair criterion of those in vogue elsewhere. In the Alberni district recently there had been marked development of the natural resources, especially the timber and mining. Immense areas of timber lands which had been lying dormant hitherto, were being taken up by outside capitalists and mills were being established. This was accepted as the direct outcome of the legislation introduced practically prohibiting the export of logs. The steps taken to encourage the mining industry were also highly commended throughout the constituency. In fact he felt safe in saying that the feeling everywhere was that the government had done well and that it would be unwise to make a change, the outcome of which would, at least, be uncertain, when the province was making such rapid progress.

Hon. Mr. Manson will remain in Victoria until the end of the week and perhaps longer. Immediately thereafter he will leave for Alberni in order to take an active part in the campaign.

VICTIM OF TERROISTS AT ST. PETERSBURG

Prefect of Police Shot Down at a Public Gathering—Assassin Killed

St. Petersburg, Jan. 3.—Major-General von der Launitz, prefect of police of St. Petersburg, was shot and killed by a young man at the Institute Experimentale this forenoon.

Von der Launitz, at the invitation of Prince Peter Alexandrovitch, duke of Oldenburg, husband of the Grand Duchess Olga, youngest sister of Emperor Nicholas, was attending the consecration of the institute chapel. During the service there, and while standing near several high officials, the prefect was approached from the rear by a young man, who drew a revolver and shot him in the base of the brain. Von der Launitz fell forward and died in two minutes.

As the assassin turned to flee, one of the officers present drew his sword and cut the man down, killing him. The identity of the assassin has not been established.

After dissolution of the Russian parliament, powers little short of those of a petty dictator were conferred upon Prefect of Police von der Launitz. He issued a long proclamation explaining the government reasons for dispersing the legislators. The act, he declared, did not signify the suppression of representative institutions, but was intended to give the people an opportunity to choose conscientiously deputies to the new parliament and to cooperate with the government in solving the problems upon which the welfare of the country depended. Last September von der Launitz refused to legalize the constitutional Democratic party, on the ground that its programme did not clearly show its political views, and he also refused to legalize the Octoberist party, because of omission in its proclamation of the address of its headquarters.

Some of his activity may be judged by the figures which he caused to be published Dec. 28 last. It was then announced that the "Flying section of the secret police" had made 588 arrests in St. Petersburg during the three days preceding Dec. 29. The prisoners, who included women, were charged with revolutionary activity and illegal election agitation. It was added that further arrests and searches were proceeding vigorously. The leaders of the revolutionists by an overwhelming majority resolved ceaselessly to pursue their just campaign of removal, intimidation being the only effective weapon against the iniquitous regime. On Nov. 23 last von der Launitz, acting, it was said, upon a hint from higher authority, dispersed a meeting of the constitutional Democrats in St. Petersburg, which he himself had previously sanctioned.

On Nov. 14 last Launitz suppressed the Russ, because of an article by M. Karavaeff, a well known jurist, who deplored what he termed "the debasement of all moral conscience in Russia." In this article the writer instanced the executions of women and children, and laid particular stress upon the case of Anna Bentdicfova, the girl student who was executed at Cronstadt on Oct. 30, for complicity in the plot to blow up the building where the court-martial trying the mutiny cases was sitting. At the last moment the woman announced that she was soon to become a mother, and M. Karavaeff quoted from a Russian statute which postpones the infliction of the death sentence upon a woman in this condition until forty days after the birth of the child, and recalled the clemency which was shown towards the woman who killed Alexander II. in 1881.

Almost Cut to Pieces

The police have not yet succeeded in identifying the terrorist who shot and killed Major General Von Der Launitz, prefect of police of St. Petersburg, at the institute of experimental medicine today, and who coolly turned his revolver against himself while he was falling under the sabres of the prefect's escort. The authorship of the crime, however, has been traced to the fighting organization of the social revolutionists, who recently resolved to resume full terroristic activity. The organization tonight issued the customary proclamation, avowing and justifying the assassination, which was accomplished with an ease that has struck terror into the hearts of all other officials on the revolutionary death list.

The assassin was about 22 years old and apparently belonged to the intelligent working class. The police affirm he was a Jew. He was provided with a card of admission to the dedication of the church, but it bore no name. The authorities have not been able to learn how he obtained this invitation to the ceremony, which was extremely secret.

Prince Alexandrovitch, Duke of Oldenburg, is a patron of the institute. Among the guests present were his wife, Grand Duchess Olga, youngest sister of Emperor Nicholas, Princess Eugenia Emilianova and a number of other persons prominent at court. That General Von Der Launitz was to attend the consecration of the church of the institute, the terrorists must have learned from sources within the police department. The prefect was accompanied to the church by his usual body guard of secret service men, but not one of them had the slightest suspicion of the murder.

The fall of General Von Der Launitz was followed by indescribable confusion. The Duke of Oldenburg seized the assassin's hand after he had fired twice, and succeeding bullets were discharged into the ceiling. But before the duke could disarm him one of the officers who accompanied the prefect, with his sabre struck the assassin a blow which completely cut out a portion of his skull. As the man was falling he shot himself in the stomach with the last bullet in his revolver. His death was instantaneous, but several officers continued to hack frenziedly at his body until the Duke of Oldenburg forced them to desist.

POLES STILL STRIVE TO RESTORE NATION

League Aims to Work for Renewed Independence—Prussian Repression

Gnesen, Prussia, Jan. 3.—The Prussian government in consequence of the disturbed state of the public mind in Prussian Poland over the school strike and the renewal of the Polish nationalist agitation continues to prosecute severely any infraction of the political ordinances. The trial began here today of a member of the Prussian house of lords, Von Koscielski, a rich Polish land owner, von Chuvzanowski, a member of the lower house of the Prussian diet, and twenty-one other persons, who are charged with having taken part in public meeting in the park of Von Koscielski's castle without the consent of the government. All the accused belong to the so-called Polish "Socol" association, numbering several hundred thousand persons and forming, the prosecution avers, material for mobilizing a future revolutionary army. The "Socol" assumes to be a gymnastic organization.

Breslau, Prussia, Jan. 3.—The articles of association of the Polish national league describe the aim of the league as being "to unite all the national resources for the restoration of the independence of Poland." Article nine demands a "union with those religio political parties which are able to gain certain political or commercial advantages without assuring any responsibilities, in states where the Polish people are not admitted to participate in political life."

The central committee of the league is bound to support any revolutionary action tending to change or destroy the government.

Article ten reads: "In case of war between the powers that took part in the dismemberment of Poland the league's principal care must be to secure for Poland at the critical moment an important position, and therefore the central committee must prepare plans for a military and an administrative organization. The committee must collect accurate information concerning the amount of money in the country available in the event of war, and also must arrange a military intelligence system, to obtain information regarding the number, equipment, mobilization, quarters and transportation of troops, the plans of fortresses and magazines and all technical secrets."

CONSERVATIVE TICKET CHOSEN IN VANCOUVER

Four of Five Former Members and Dr. McGuire Are Nominated

Vancouver, Jan. 3.—At the Conservative convention this evening Messrs. Tatlow, Macgowan, Garden, Bowser and Dr. McGuire were elected as standard-bearers of the Conservative party in the coming election. T. E. Julian and Mayor Buscombe were also put in nomination, but were out on the first ballot.

G. H. Cowan and J. R. Seymour were proposed, but would not accept nomination unconditionally, and were ruled out by Chairman Woodworth.

The selection of the five names mentioned was made unanimous with great enthusiasm. Short speeches were afterwards made by the candidates.

The five candidates chosen comprise four of the "solid five" who represented Vancouver in the late House, Charles Wilson, K. C., being the fifth. Dr. McGuire, who takes Mr. Wilson's place on the ticket, is generally looked upon as a strong candidate, and victory for the whole five is regarded as a certainty by the most acute observers.

RESTIGOUCHE ELECTION

Dalhousie, N. B., Jan. 3.—William Currie, Liberal, in the provincial bye-elections was elected for Restigouche over James Stewart, Conservative, by 127 majority.

Lifebuoy Soap—disinfectant—is strongly recommended by the medical profession as a safeguard against infectious diseases.

PERFORMANCE SHOCKED EVEN GAY PARISIANS

Marquise De Morny Appears in Indecent Play at the Moulin Rouge

Paris, Jan. 3.—There was a remarkable scene tonight at the notorious Moulin Rouge, when the Marquise De Morny, a daughter of the famous Duke De Morny and a niece of Napoleon III, made her debut in an act entitled "A Dream of Egypt," written by herself in collaboration with Mme. Gauthier-Villars, the author of "Claudine" and other decadent novels.

The marquise who is the divorced wife of the Marquise De Belbeuff, has already achieved an unenviable reputation, and her heralded appearance on the stage brought out a storm of criticism. To this the marquise replied in a letter published this afternoon, denying that her performance was intended to be suggestive, and insisting that she meant to give an artistic reproduction of the manners of ancient Egypt.

In defending her appearance on the stage the marquise says:

"This does not constitute a disgrace to the French aristocracy, and a distinguished scion of this aristocracy, the Prince De Broglie, has been earning his living for some time past by conducting an orchestra in New York."

In spite of this statement a number of clubmen and Bonapartists got together and went to the Moulin Rouge tonight, where they conducted a demonstration the like of which has seldom been witnessed in this city.

For ten minutes the curtain could not be raised on the new act owing to the pandemonium from the galleries and boxes. When it went up, disclosing the marquise, working out a cryptogram of the charm of life, after the fashion of Galatea, and a beautiful Egyptian mummy in the person of Madame Wilty, the din was redoubled. This was followed by a rain of missiles of every description, the audience throwing hassocks and boxes at the women on the stage. In spite of this vociferous demonstration the two women persisted in completing their act, which is as disgustingly indecent as anything ever seen on the Parisian stage.

When the curtain was rung down the crowd rushed towards the box occupied by Mme. Gauthier-Villars and Mlle. Pollac, who is starring in a stage adaptation of "Claudine," and literally drove them from the theatre.

How It Feels to Be in Jail.

Though baffled for the present, the women suffragists of England do not intend to give up the struggle. Interesting as this subject is, just at the present there is perhaps one thing connected with the recent sentencing of eleven suffragists that is still more o. That is how these eleven ladies felt when incarcerated in a dreary prison. One of these, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, gave her experiences to the London Chronicle: "I am feeling none the worse for my imprisonment," she said, "but I have come out more determined than ever that women shall have the vote. Think of it! There are thousands of women imprisoned, and yet there are no women prison commissioners nor inspectors! Even a man will admit the unfairness of that, and when we do get the franchise this will be one of the first of our reforms.

"I have no complaint to make of the prison officials; but the conditions of the life were hard. I slept on a plank bed 6 ft. long and 3 ft. wide, and raised from the ground not more than 3 or 4 inches. It proved but a draughty couch at best. My ticket stated I was to be put to labor for which I was fit, and the first thing I made was a flannel shirt, and for the remainder of my time I was making sheets.

"One thing that seemed bad to me was that we were not encouraged to wash more than once a day, and were allowed to have not more than one warm bath a week. The daily attendance at chapel came as a great relief to the terrible solitude. What good can this solitude do? Is it good for a woman to brood? Being in the third division I was sent to the exercise yard not more than three times a week. On coming out for the first time I found my powers of observation greatly accentuated. I seemed to see everything. I shall always remember the color of the sky that day and the drifting clouds. Alone among the prisoners I looked up; they bent their eyes on the ground. Theirs was the walk of despair."

LEAVING ST. PIERRE

As the Maritime Express rolled into Montreal this morning sixty stalwart, middle-class, respectable looking citizens stepped off the train bound to become citizens of the Dominion of Canada. They were emigrants from the French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, brought to this country by Dr. A. T. Brisson, the immigration agent of the province of Quebec, this making the fifth contingent to reach Quebec from the French colonies.

From what Dr. Brisson says the islands are becoming depopulated very rapidly, and today there is scarcely a laboring man to be found in St. Pierre, even the few now left expressing the intention that they will leave the island before the close of navigation in January.

The little steamer St. Pierre-Miquelon runs between the islands and Sydney as late as the first week in January. There will be another trip on the 24th of this month and the last will leave on the 3rd of next month. It was expected at first that the emigration movement would stop with this present trip, but it has now been assured that parties will leave the island on both trips of the steamer. In the spring it is expected that more activity than ever will be taken in the emigration movement.

At the present date there are more than five hundred emigrants in Canada, who have left the island since July, mostly good families, capable of making a living anywhere and who are at present employed in reputable positions throughout Quebec. The majority of them make for the lumber shanties, where they have proved themselves good lumbermen, while others are now at work on railway construction, in the Angus shops, the Laprairie Brick company and the American Foundation company at Shawnigan Falls.

The population of the islands a year ago was 6,000 people included in three parishes. The most important of these is St. Pierre, the next is on Dog island opposite, while the third is Miquelon. These people live entirely by fishing in which industry they are helped by from one to two thousand fishermen from France, who come over each summer to engage in this trade. Even these summer visitors have been attracted to Canada and so far about fifty from Southern France have settled here. The population of the islands at present is a little below 5,000.

Now these 5,000 people have finally made up their minds that they cannot possibly live on the islands so long as the present state of government exists. Many speak openly of annexation to the United States or Canada as the solution to the difficulty, and this is a question which according to Dr. Brisson, is becoming one of great national importance to the two countries. At present the administrative system, calling for the use of so many employees, proves a great imposition to the small colony. Five thousand people live on the islands and the cost per year amounts to 300,000 francs or $60,000, which means that it costs every man living on the islands $12 a year to be governed.

The belief is now prevalent that anything France can do to restore things to their relative proper position will be quite useless. It is too late, the people are imbued with the spirit of emigration, and nothing the Mother Country can do will keep the native-born on their own soil. It is expected that next spring fully 2,000 people will leave the islands for other climes.

DORMANT TITLE CANADIAN'S AIM

Former Hamilton Man Expects to Establish Claim—Scottish King Ancestor

London, Dec. 23.—Mr. Barclay-Allardice, formerly a Wall Street stock broker in New York, has a fair chance of establishing his claim to the ancient earldom of Airth.

Mr. Barclay-Allardice is a native of Hamilton, Ontario, but went to New York when a young man and was successful from the start. He at that time was determined to prove his title, but realized that it would take money to support the dignity of the position. Hence he made money.

Coming to Great Britain, he settled at Lostwithiel, of which municipality he is now the mayor.

This is one of the most romantic peerage claims in all history, and is now being considered by the House of Lords committee of privileges. It is expected that a vote will be taken soon after Christmas.

The story told to the committee and supported by voluminous documents is one that goes back to King Robert II. of Scotland, the common ancestor of the England Stuart Kings, of King Edward VII., and of the mayor of Lostwithiel, according to the pedigree which Mr. Barclay-Allardice will be put forward.

For Mr. Barclay-Allardice claims that he is descended in a straight line from the eldest legitimate son of Robert II. of Scotland, while, as is not disputed, the Stuart kings—and therefore King Edward—are descended from Robert III., who was born years before his mother became the wife of Robert II.

Common Ancestors

Robert III., the ancestor of Charles I. and of King Edward, was not, genealogically, the true heir to his father's crown, being born out of wedlock. The first child of Robert II. born in wedlock was his eldest son by his second wife, David, Earl of Strathearn, and it is from his son that Mr. Barclay-Allardice traces his descent.

It is said that "hereditary rights never die," but whatever rights the descendants of the first Earl of Strathearn ever had to the throne of Scotland, hundreds of years ago, were in fact barred by an act of the Scottish parliament which settled the succession on the earlier children of Robert II. And whatever rights the heirs of the Pretender had in later times were as effectually barred by the act of the English parliament which placed the Georges on the throne.

But while the acceptance of Mr. Barclay-Allardice's pedigree by the House of Lords would give rise to no new peerage, it would perhaps be a source of woe to the "Legitimist" or "White Rose" enthusiasts, who still, in an academic way, champion the rights of the descendants of the Pretender to the English crown.

Strict Heredity

These enthusiasts, of course, base the claim of the Pretender's descendants to the throne on strict heredity—acts of parliament being held of no account—and if Lostwithiel proves that he is the true "heir in line" of the Scottish king through whom the Stuarts came to the crown, he would take genealogical precedence of the present Legitimist heiress, Princess Lofuse of Bavaria, who is regarded by the Legitimists as being by hereditary right "Queen Mary IV."

L. Stuart, of Doughty street, W. C., who is deeply versed in genealogical matters, and has closely studied Mr. Barclay-Allardice's claim, put the matter clearly from the genealogist's point of view. He said:

"Robert II. got over the illegitimacy of his son, whom he designed for his successor, by an act of parliament, but fifty acts of parliament could never in reality remove the taint in the blood of Robert III. The hereditary right therefore remains in the issue of the latter's legitimate half-brother, David, Earl of Strathearn, whose representative the Cornish mayor claims to be."

Mr. Barclay-Allardice's claim to the dormant earldom of Airth becomes still more interesting in view of the fact that it is to be contested by another descendant of Robert II.—George Marshall Graham, of Leitchtown, formerly of Toronto, Canada, who is asking the House of Lords to recognize his right not only to the Airth earldom, but to the older earldom of Menteith, and the still older earldom of Strathearn, all now dormant.

There is, Mr. Stuart said, practically no doubt about the descent of both claimants, and in the highly probable event of both lines of descent being proved to the satisfaction of the committee of privileges, the only remaining question is which has the stronger claim to the dormant titles.

Since the death of the second earl of Airth, in 1664, the earldom has been dormant, for it is a curious fact that none of his sisters' descendants claimed the title until 1834, when Robert Barclay-Allardice, the present claimant's grandfather, took his case before the House of Lords.

In 1870 Mr. Barclay-Allardice's mother made another attempt to secure a decision, but she was not in a position to press her claim to a conclusion, and it fell through without any decision being arrived at by the committee on privileges. Mr. Barclay-Allardice hopes at the third attempt to establish his claim beyond doubt.

A remarkable coincidence in the case is that both Mrs Barclay-Allardice and Mr. Graham hail from the other side of the Atlantic, that the eventual heirs of both these nephews were born in America.

Mr. Graham was born in Edinburgh, but went to Canada at an early age, and still owns property in the Dominion. Mr. Graham's mother was a niece of the last Duke of Gordon, and through his mother he is a second cousin of the present Duke of Richmond. He is also related to the Prime Minister, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.

VARIOUS RETURNING OFFICERS ARE NAMED

Gazette Contains Names of Those Who Will Officiate in Different Electoral Districts

This week's Gazette contains notification of the following appointments: George Nondstrom of Quatsino to be a justice of the peace; Edward Charles Moe of Midway, Arthur Raines Waterfall, John William Prescott, James Eadie and Albert William Jones, of Vancouver, to be notaries public; Rev. J. H. Keen, C. M. S., of Metlakahtla, George Rudge of Port Simpson and Harry Berryman of Port Essington to be official members of the directorate of Port Simpson general hospital.

Returning officers for several electoral districts have also been appointed, consisting of: Saanich, James R. Carmichael; Esquimalt, A. J. M. Inverarity; Cowichan, William Forrest; Newcastle, M. R. Simpson; Alberni, Andrew L. Smith; Comox, Frank Anley; Delta, John W. Berry, Dewdney, J. A. Catherwood; Richmond, James Tuttle; New Westminster City, George Cunningham, Sr.; Vancouver City, Robert B. Parkes; Atlin, A. S. Cross; Skeena, Patrick Hickey; Cariboo, John Stevenson; Lillooet, Caspar Phair; Kamloops, William Wesley Shaw; Okanagan, S. A. Shatford; Similkameen, Thomas W. Coleman; Greenwood, Geo. Cunningham; Grand Forks, H. C. Kerman; Slocan, George Henderson; Nelson City, George Alexander Hunter; Rossland, Richard T. Evans; Kaslo, William G. Robb; Columbia, J. W. Devlin; Cranbrook, John Hutchison; Fernie, James Henry Marshall.

The companies incorporated include the Beam Manufacturing Company, Limited, of Vancouver, capital $100,000, to acquire the sawmill business of W. J. Beam; Burrard Lumber Company, Limited, capital $150,000, to manufacture pulp and paper and engage in a general lumbering business; and the Chinese Club, Limited, with a capital of $10,000, divided into 40,000 shares of 25 cents each. An extra-provincial company also received a licence—the Copper Cliff Mining Company, of the state of Washington, capital $10,000. C. W. Carter of Heriot Bay is its attorney in the province.

On behalf of the Securities Corporation of British Columbia, Limited, Barnard & Robertson of this city give notice that they will, at the next session of the legislature, apply for a private bill permitting the company to act as administrator, executor and trustee.

McKANE IN SCOTLAND

John McKane, formerly of this city, later of Nevada, where he became a mining magnate and made over a million, is now in Scotland, says the Rossland Miner. Mr. McKane takes a deep interest in politics, and while he was a resident of this city he contested the riding against James Martin for the provincial house, and afterwards against W. A. Galliher for the Dominion house. It is evident, no matter where John McKane is, that he cannot keep out of politics, and is in the greatest game ever played by mankind up to his eyes, and is evidently using Kootenay methods to forward his chances in Scotland for obtaining the nomination for parliament, according to the Edinburgh Evening News of December 6th last:

Rival Tory Claimants for Stirling Burghs—Political events in the Stirling Burghs took an unexpected turn last night. The officials at headquarters have been trying to instate upon the electorate the candidature of Mr. William Whitelaw, a former M. P. for Perth. Difficulties have arisen between the Dunfermline association officials and those in Edinburgh. The object, it is understood, of Mr. Guy Speir's visit to Dunfermline a week ago was to so bridge the gulf that Mr. Whitelaw might appear before a joint committee of Stirline and Dunfermline Unionists as a probable candidate. Last night's meeting of the Dunfermline Burgh Unionist association has entirely upset calculations, not only in the town, but in Edinburgh, if not in Stirling. Dr. Drysdale, who has for many years absented himself from political life, took the chair. There was no difficulty about the appointment of president. Mr. Drysdale being unanimously selected. A vice-president was found in Bailie Stewart, and a secretary in Mr. William Reid, solicitor. It was when the appointment of an executive came to be considered that it was disclosed that there was to be a trial of strength as between Mr. Whitelaw and John McKane, the Dunfermline-Nevada millionaire. The retiring executive submitted a list of 15 names. These, however, did not prove acceptable, and ultimately 27 nominations were made. Voting papers were issued, and a large majority of the 15 gentlemen who were reported to be successful in the ballot are believed to be supporters of Mr. McKane.

MANITOBA COMPLAINS OF OTTAWA INJUSTICE

Refused Extension of Boundaries and Robbed of Provincial Swamp Lands

Winnipeg, Jan. 3.—The legislature of Manitoba convened today at 3 o'clock. The reply to the speech from the throne was moved by G. Ashdown, of Morden, seconded by Glen Campbell, of Gilbert Plains. The speech said, among other things:

"My government in the recess has been pressing upon the government of Canada the justice of Manitoba's claim for an extension of boundaries. A conference has been held at Ottawa, consisting of representatives of Ontario, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, with members of the federal government, but, I regret to inform you, with no substantial results favorable to our province. Strong protests have been made also as to the methods, delays and costs in selecting swamp lands that properly belong to the province under the agreement made between the Dominion and the province in 1885. The results of such protests, however, have not so far been of any effect, and as a consequence we not only suffer direct financial loss, but are losing large blocks of land that probably belong to Manitoba.

"The recent vote taken on the principle of a public owned system of telephones has been accepted as a declaration of approval, and my government has already taken the necessary steps to construct at least 1,000 miles of long-distance lines during the coming summer, which is a guarantee of greatly reduced rates for that very important service.

"A bill for the purpose of amending the Public Schools act will be submitted for your consideration. The main feature will consist of provisions for the flying of the Union Jack upon all public schoolhouses in the province."